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ELECTRONIC BENEFIT TRANSFER (EBT) FACT SHEET

BACKGROUND

Federal law requires all States to use an Electronic Benefit Transfer (EBT) system to issue benefits via magnetic stripe cards (similar to debit cards). This system is used to deliver benefits to participants (primary cardholders) and designated alternative cardholders. The EBT system will, in no way, impact the benefit amount, eligibility requirements or what cardholders may purchase using the EBT card. The State of California awarded ACS State & Local Solutions, Inc. (ACS), a contract to provide EBT services to qualified Food Stamp Program and cash benefit participants in the State of California.

DISTRIBUTION OF BENEFITS

The EBT system will be used to issue Food Stamp (FS) benefits and cash benefits (CalWORKs, Refugee Cash Assistance [RCA], Cash Assistance Program for Immigrants [CAPI], or General Relief [GR]) to all eligible participants in Los Angeles County.

An EBT account is set up for each program for the participant. If the participant receives both food stamps and cash, the participant will have an EBT account for food stamps and an EBT account for cash; however, participants need only one card to access both accounts.

Food Stamp benefits are available at point-of-sale (POS) devices that are located at all businesses/markets that are authorized to accept Food Stamps.

Cash benefits are available from participating *QUEST™* automated teller machines (ATMs), as well as from POS devices that are located at participating businesses/markets, check cashing locations, and other locations.

To be eligible to Food Stamp and/or cash benefits individuals must apply for these benefits at any of the DPSS offices in L.A. County.

BENEFITS OF THE EBT SYSTEM

Participants

EBT reduces stigma, eliminates waiting at benefits issuance outlets, reduces lost and stolen benefits, and aids in transitioning participants to self-sufficiency.

Retailers

EBT reduces FS handling costs, and increases speed and efficiency of service to customers.

Financial Institutions

EBT reduces processing costs.

Government/Taxpayers

EBT improves service and benefit delivery to participants, and increases ability to maintain program integrity.